



Catawba County Public Health

www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth

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Policy for Dealing with Animals Exposed to Rabies

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 130A-197, any animal that has been exposed to rabies and has not been vaccinated, must be euthanized. The statute also provides the health director with the authority to allow for a quarantine of an unvaccinated, exposed animal. I direct that any unvaccinated animal may be quarantined, at the owner's expense, for a six-month period with a North Carolina licensed veterinarian practicing in Catawba County or a contiguous county, as an alternative to immediate euthanization. For purposes of this policy, an animal tested for rabies that is deemed "untestable" for any reason shall be considered as having tested positive for rabies.

For any animal that has been exposed to rabies whose vaccination is not current, written proof of the animal's vaccination history must be provided to Catawba County Animal Services within 48 hours of the exposure. Depending on the biting animal, and after consultation with the North Carolina Veterinarian, a modified quarantine period may be determined.

Signed this the 1st day of February, 2013.

DWU

"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"

